**Shortage of power in the country**

1845. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of power in the country and Government has failed to achieve the targets of supplying adequate power to various States;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government is considering strengthening the hands of NTPC for generation of more power in various parts of the country and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) There is an overall shortage of power in the country presently. The shortage varies from State to State and time to time. The average electrical energy shortage in the country during the period April-June, 2005 was 8.9% and peak shortage was 13.1%.

Electricity is a concurrent subject. The supply and distribution of electricity in a State is the responsibility of the concerned State Government /State Power Utility. The Central Government supplements the efforts of State Government by way of generation capacity addition and establishment of bulk transmission system in the Central Sector through Central Public Sector Undertakings.

(c) Enhanced Delegation of Powers (Navratna Powers) were accorded by Government of India to NTPC in July, 1997. As per Navratna Powers, NTPC Board is empowered to *inter-alia* approve investment in its new/expansion projects without any monetary ceiling. Capacity addition of 9,160 MW thermal capacity is envisaged to be added by NTPC during the Tenth Plan.

**Visit of officials of NTPC to West Asian countries to negotiate the procurement of gas**

1846. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether top officials of NTPC have visited various West Asian

countries to negotiate for the procurement of gas for NTPC plants; (b) if so,

the details in this regard;

(c) whether NTPC aim to add 1,00,000 MW power generation capacity by 2012; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A delegation from National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) visited Oman in the month of February, 2005 to explore the possibilities of participating in the elements of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) value chain to source LNG for NTPC's gas based power plants.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Power plans to add 1,00,000 MW power generation capacity by 2012 in which NTPC has planned for capacity addition of 9160 MW during Tenth Plan (2002-2007) and about 17000 MW capacity is envisaged to be added by NTPC during Eleventh Plan (2007-2012).

**NTPC into petroleum and gas sector**

1847. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL; Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC is planning to foray into other business including gas and petroleum sector;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether NTPC is participating in international global tenders for construction of power plants in joint venture; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with the names of countries where NTPC is actively negotiating for power projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) As a part of its future strategy for growth, National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), in addition to its core business of setting up and operating tnermal power plants, is going in for Hydro-electric Power, backward and forward integration in utilization of Liquefied Natural Gas, Power Trading, Distribution of Power and Coal Mining etc.